



# Tempe Art in Private Development

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## Liberty Center

1850 W Rio Salado Parkway

## Kevin Berry

*Rio Salado Liberty Torches,*  
2014

Steel, glass, and LED lights

Artist Website:

[www.SouthMountainStudios.com](http://www.SouthMountainStudios.com)

Photo: Tarah Berry

**Description:** A series of monumental, illuminated, steel and glass sculptures serve as beacons of light leading people into Liberty Center at Rio Salado. The sculptures' steel rebar forms are inspired by the weaving of natural materials, such as willow branches and reeds, by indigenous cultures that once thrived along the river's banks. The torch like form takes cues from the development name, "Liberty Center," and the torch held by the Statue of Liberty, while agave-shaped flames echo plants of the surrounding desert landscape. Large aqua-colored glass rocks fill each column like water, representing the river's wet cycle. LED lights illuminate the agave flames and aqua glass creating beacons in the night. Several smaller-scale agave torch sculptures can be found dotting the landscape of Liberty Center.

**Artist biography:** Born in Missouri in 1961, Berry received a Bachelors of Fine Art in Sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute and a Masters from Arizona State University. He has completed a huge number of public art projects throughout the country, and has also shown in many prestigious art galleries in Arizona. In addition, he has also published several distinguished papers on the topics of art and sculpture.

**Funding:** This project was funded by the individual developer, Liberty Property Trust, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.